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6 May 1975

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The House on May 5 passed two bills which you may want to raise at the morning meeting:

1. Both houses have now completed action on S. 172, to revise the allowances for per diem and mileage expenses of Government employees. The Senate agreed essentially to the House version with a minor amendment which the House approved yesterday. The House version was much more to the Administration's liking. It provides for a basic \$35 per diem rate with a \$50 maximum authorized in extraordinary circumstances. The bill raises from a maximum of 12¢ to a maximum of 20¢ per mile the allowances for use of privately owned automobiles, and allows adjustment by the Administrator of General Services based on periodic determinations of average actual cost of operation of vehicles. (See attached clip for language.)

2. The House also passed H.R. 1244, the Presidential Protection Assistance Act. The purpose of the bill is to centralize the protection of the President in a single office, namely the Secret Service, and to place limitations on the expenditure of funds for his protection. The bill is a result of the revelations that GSA spent millions of dollars on President Nixon's private properties at San Clemente and Key Biscayne. The bill provides that all Federal departments and agencies shall assist the United States Secret Service by "providing, when requested by the Director of the United States Secret Service or his authorized representative and on a reimbursable basis, services, equipment, or facilities on a temporary basis ... "

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